

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1 and 2 are canceled.

3 (Currently amended). ~~A the method of claim 2, further comprising:~~

connecting a plurality of workstations in a network, each workstation having available resources which are shared with other workstations across the network;

implementing a grid across the network;

executing grid workload on the resources which are shared among the plurality of workstations;

determining an activity state of a first workstation included in the grid, the activity state being indicative of a degree of current utilization of the first workstation by a local workload;

responding to a determination that the activity state of the first workstation indicates low utilization by assigning grid workload to the first workstation;

responding to a determination that the activity state of the first workstation indicates high utilization by determining a workstation preference for accepting grid workload on the first workstation when utilization is determined to be high;

responding to a determination that the workstation preference is yes by determining a delay level associated with said the grid workload and indicative of an extent to which said the grid workload will lock the resources of a workstation to which it is assigned; and

wherein, in response responding to a determination that said the activity state indicates high utilization and that said the workstation preference is yes by assigning said the grid workload to said the first workstation only if said the delay level indicates that said the grid workload will lock the workstation resources to an extent below a threshold.

4 (Currently amended). ~~A In a computer network including at least two workstations and implementing a grid for executing a grid workload on the shared~~

~~resources of the at least two workstations, a method of assigning said grid workload to one of the at least two workstations, the method comprising:~~

~~connecting a plurality of workstations in a network, each workstation having available resources which are shared with other workstations across the network;~~

~~implementing a grid across the network;~~

~~executing grid workload on the resources which are shared among the plurality of workstations;~~

~~monitoring a utilization level indicative of the extent to which a local workload is utilizing the resources of a first workstation of the at least two workstations and setting a first workstation activity state to a selected one of three conditions;~~

~~a first condition being idle if said the utilization level is below a first threshold;~~

~~a second condition being active if said the utilization level is above said the first threshold and said the first workstation activity level is already idle or active; and~~

~~a third condition being blocked if said the utilization level is above said the first threshold and said the first workstation activity state is already blocked; and~~

~~checking said the first workstation activity state;~~

~~in response to a first workstation activity state of idle, assigning grid workload to said the first workstation;~~

~~in response to a first workstation activity state of active, determining a first workstation preference for accepting said grid workload when said the first workstation activity state is active;~~

~~in response to a determination that said the first workstation preference is yes, assigning said grid workload to said the first workstation;~~

~~in response to a determination that said the first workstation preference is no:~~

~~setting said the first workstation activity state to blocked; and~~

holding ~~said grid workload~~ for assignment to another of the ~~at least two workstations~~ workstation; and

in response to a first workstation activity state of blocked, holding ~~said grid workload~~ for assignment to another of the ~~at least two workstations~~ workstation.

5 (Currently amended). The method of Claim 4, further comprising:

determining a delay level associated with ~~said grid workload~~ and indicative of the extent to which ~~said grid workload~~ will lock the resources of a workstation to which it is assigned, and:

~~wherein~~ in response to a first workstation activity state of active and a first workstation preference of yes, assigning ~~said grid workload~~ to ~~said the~~ first workstation only if ~~said the~~ delay level indicates that the grid workload will lock the workstation resources to an extent below a second threshold.

Claims 6 through 8 are canceled from this application, subject to the right of applicant to present those claims in a continuing application.

Claims 9 and 10 are canceled.

11 (Currently amended). ~~Apparatus The system of Claim 10~~ further comprising:

a plurality of workstations connected together in a network, each workstation having available resources which are shared with other workstations across the network;

computer executable instructions stored accessibly to and executing on said plurality of workstations which, when executing, implement a grid across the network and execute grid workload on the resources which are shared among the plurality of workstations;

a workstation monitor operatively associated with said workstations which determines

(a) an activity state of a first workstation, the activity state being

indicative of a degree of current utilization of said first workstation by a local workload; and

(b) a workstation preference for accepting grid workload on said first workstation when utilization is high;

a grid workload monitor for ~~determining~~ which determines a delay level associated with ~~said the~~ grid workload and indicative of the extent to which ~~said the~~ grid workload will lock the resources of a workstation to which it ~~the~~ grid workload is assigned; and ~~wherein;~~

said a workstation scheduler which:

(c) in response to a determination that the activity state indicates low utilization of said first workstation assigns grid workload to said first workstation; or

(d) in response to a determination that the activity state indicates high utilization of said first workstation checks the workstation preference of said first workstation and in response to a ~~and that said~~ workstation preference is of yes, further assigns ~~said the~~ grid workload to said first workstation only if ~~said the~~ delay level indicates that ~~said the~~ grid workload will lock the workstation resources to an extent below a threshold; or

(e) in response to a workstation preference of no holds the grid workload for assignment to another workstation.

12 (Currently amended). ~~Apparatus in a computer network including at least two workstations and implementing a grid for executing grid workload on the shared resources of the at least two workstations, a system for assigning said grid workload to one of the at least two workstations, the system comprising:~~

a plurality of workstations connected together in a network, each workstation having available resources which are shared with other workstations across the network;

computer executable instructions stored accessibly to and executing on said plurality of workstations which, when executing, implement a grid across the

network and execute grid workload on the resources which are shared among the plurality of workstations;

a workstation monitor for monitoring which

(a) monitors a utilization level indicative of the extent to which a local workload is utilizing the resources of a first workstation ~~of the at least two workstations~~ and setting sets a first workstation activity state to a selected one of three conditions;

a first condition being idle if said the utilization level is below a first threshold;

a second condition being active if said the utilization level is above said the first threshold and said the first workstation activity level is already idle or active; and

a third condition being blocked if said the utilization level is above said the first threshold and said the first workstation activity state is already blocked; and

(b) determines determining a first workstation preference for accepting said grid workload when said first workstation activity state is active; and a workload scheduler for which:

(c) checks ~~checking~~ said first workstation activity state;

(d) in response to a first workstation activity state of active, checks ~~checking~~ said first station preference;

(d1) in response to a first workstation preference of yes, assigns ~~assigning~~ said grid workload to said first workstation;

(d2) in response to a first workstation preference of no:

(d2a) sets ~~setting~~ said first workstation activity to blocked;

(d2b) holds ~~holding~~ said grid workload for assignment to another workstation of the at least two workstations; and

(e) in response to a first workstation activity state of blocked, holds ~~holding~~ said grid workload for assignment to another workstation ~~of the at least two workstations.~~

13 (Currently amended). The apparatus system of Claim 12, further comprising:
a grid workload monitor which determines ~~for determining~~ a delay level associated with said grid workload and indicative of the extent to which said grid workload will lock the resources of a workstation to which it grid workload is assigned, and wherein said workload scheduler, in response to a first workstation activity state of active and a first workstation preference of yes, assigns said grid workload to said first workstation only if said the delay level indicates that said the grid workload will lock the workstation resources to an extent below a second threshold.

Claims 14 through 16 are canceled from this application, subject to the right of applicant to present those claims in a continuing application.